

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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FM AMCONSUL NICE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1179

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS NICE 422

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : PINT, PINS, FR

SUBJECT : CAR-FERRIES STRIKE IN CORSICA

1. THE PROTEST STRIKE OF SOLIDARITY ON SEPTEMBER 10 AGAINST THE SALE OF CAR-FERRY "ILE DE BEAUTE" BLOCKED 10,000 PASSENGERS ON CORSICA. THE C.G.T. UNION MEMBERS OF S.N.C.M. (SOCIETE NATIONALE CORSE MEDITERRANEE) WERE JOINED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE S.,N.C.M. TO BLOCK THE WHOLE FLEET, BOTH CARGO AND PASSENGER FERRIES. AWAITING PASSENGERS OCCUPIED THE GANGWAYS AND BLOCKED ENTRANCE TO THE HANGARS IN PROTEST, AND OTHERS INVADED THE OFFICES OF THE MARITIME COMPANY.

2. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE S.N.C.M. DECLARED THAT NO DEPARTURES WOULD TAKE PLACE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ON EITHER CORSICAN OR NORTH-AFRICAN LINES. FURTHER, THE C.G.T. AFFILIATED SEAMEN WOULD CONTINUE THE STRIKE UNTIL A DECISION IS MADE TO EITHER KEEP THE "ILE DE BEAUTE" IN SERVICE, OR REPLACE IT.

3. THE STRIKE APPEARED TO BE NEARING ITS END WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 11, OF THE S.N.C.M.'S INTENTION TO

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REPLACE THE "ILE DE BEAUTE" BY A NEW FERRY. HOWEVER, THE

SALE IS TO TAKE PLACE ON 15 OCTOBER 1976 AND THE NEW FERRY PUT INTO SERVICE EARLY 1979. A C.G.T. GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING, THE SAME DAY, DECIDED THE CONTINUATION OF THE STRIKE, DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE ESSENTIALS OF THEIR DEMANDS WERE NOT OBTAINED. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE C.G.T. WENT TO PARIS THAT DAY TO MEET MR RIBIERE, MANAGER OF THE S.N.C.M. THE C.G.T. INTENDS TO COMMUNICATE THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING ON THEIR RETURN FROM PARIS.

4. IN AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, THE S.N.C.M. REQUESTED PASSENGERS WITH RESERVATIONS FOR FURTHER SAILINGS TO CONTACT S.N.C.M. AGENCIES BEFORE ARRIVAL AT EMBARKATION PORTS.

MURPHY

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